

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1050
November 12, 2002

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm - UGS
KAPPE, Karl – DFFSL
MILLIS, Eric – Water Resources
WILCOX, Rick - SITLA
PAYNE, Val – DNR
SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
CANNING, Michael - DWR
PITKIN, Jay – DEQ – Water Quality
PARKER, Randy - DOA
KEENE, Mike – Science Advisor
JOHNSON, Wes – DPR
DANIELS, Ron – DOGM
ASTIN, Gary – DEQ/DERR

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn - GOPB/DNR
LANDURETH, Brenda - DNR/ADMIN

I. Approval of Minutes

Glade Sowards called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 a.m. The following corrections were made to the minutes:

- 1.) first paragraph under “Report from Agencies”, on the first page, middle paragraph change “Kunes” to “Kountz”
- 2.) end of the second page, first item under “Announcements” change “Water Resources” to “Water Rights”

Ron Daniels made a motion to approve the September 10, 2002 minutes with these corrections. Kimm Harty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Glade Sowards reported that the Division of Water Rights will transfer the new computer system over the Thanksgiving holiday. They will run both systems to ensure no breaks in service.

Utah Energy Office (UEO) and Utah Geological Survey are working together to finalize an abbreviated coal report for this year. Contact Dave Tabet, Utah Geologic Survey for more information.

The UEO are working on new legislation to articulate responsibilities for the consolidated energy office. Representative Urquhart is sponsoring this bill. Representative McCartney, Technology Committee is proposing a bill that will make the UEO become the central clearinghouse for all energy data for the state. People will be able to check on one website to obtain information.

Val Payne announced deadlines on several priority items. The committee discussed the following Program Management System projects:

<u>Project (Project Management System)</u>	<u>DNR Comments Due</u>	<u>GOPB Comments Due</u>
St. George Airport EIS, PMS#2189 (See Airport EA, #461)	November 25, 2002	December 2, 2002
Santa Clara Pipeline #2298	November 22, 2002	November 25, 2002
Fox and Crescent Maintenance Project – DEIS #2294	December 3, 2002	December 16, 2002
Duck Creek – Swains Access Management Project – DEIS and Executive Summary #2278	To be determined	To be determined
Utah Forest Highway 29 Engineering and Environmental Work		

Carolyn Wright will check on the deadlines for the Duck Creek – Swains Access Management Project since it has not been announced on the Federal Register to initiate the 45-day comment period.

Wes Johnson from State Parks and Recreation reported the SVC proposal for a land exchange for a conservation easement of a 12-acre parcel of wetlands that will go to The Nature Conservancy or Utah Open Lands. The 45 parcels of the Jordan River Parkway from North Temple to Redwood Road will be transferred to Salt Lake City.

Legislation will include a water conservation surcharge of two to three dollars per day for boaters from recreational users on reservoirs. State Parks and Recreation will collect the fee. This topic is on the Natural Resource Interim Committee meeting agenda for Wednesday, November 20, 2002.

Ron Daniels from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) reported that a sunset provision to remove tax incentives on certain oil and gas production is under consideration. DOGM supports the status quo regarding the incentives. Rules to tighten up bonding provisions for oil and gas development are now being considered. Bonding rules for all minerals operators, including operations that are less than five acres in size are also being considered. This will ensure that every operator assumes responsibility for mining activities in the state. He also announced that the Tax Revision Commission's final report will be released on Friday, November 15, 2002.

Last year, the legislature passed a bill authorizing DOGM to assess civil penalties for violations of the mineral regulatory program. DOGM is now in the process of developing rules to implement this bill.

The MaClean Mine in Carbon County report that they found a hot spot for the mine fire and that fire suppression activities will begin. The Skyline Mine near Scofield Reservoir has a groundwater issue regarding excessive water production from the current operation and the operator has decided to change the direction of mining activities.

Kimm Harty, Utah Geological Survey reported that the National Park Service is planning to eliminate the paleontology Program at Dinosaur National Monument. The UGS director has written a letter requesting that the NPS reconsider this decision. If you are interested in weighing in on the issue contact NPS personnel. This issue was discussed at the Department of Natural Resources Leadership Team meeting.

Randy Parker from the Department of Agriculture announced that the draft report is ready for review of the southern six counties drought mitigation report. The final report will be released in approximately 45 days. It will include short- and long-term recommendations describing how agencies should move forward to mitigate impacts to livestock and wildlife forage. A large amount of funding is currently available for conservation efforts, however federal agencies do not have the staff to work on projects. Congress is currently discussing how to certify third-party vendors to get conservation projects on the ground.

Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Department of Environmental Quality, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Division of Wildlife Resources and the Division of Water Resources, and the State Science representative did not have any activities to report.

RDCC informally decided that using a LCD projector/laptop to view the Project Management System is not necessary. Carolyn Wright, RDCC Coordinator will ensure that this information is available for reference.

The RDCC Christmas Party Potluck will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2002. Kimm Harty emphasized, “that this year everyone should bring **quality treats.**”

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m. The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Natural Resources, in room 2000.